The concept of poverty line used by the Planning Commission is based on the recommendation of 'Task Force on Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand' appointed by the Planning Commission which submitted its report in 1979. According to this report, the poverty line is defined as the per capita monthly expenditure of Rs. 49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 in urban areas at 1973-74 prices corresponding to the per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 in rural areas and 2100 in urban areas. The poverty line defined this way covers the expenditure of food and non-food items (such as fuel, clothing, housing, health, education and other social services) and ensures the adequacy of calorie consumption. This concept which was used for the Sixth Plan is continued for the Seventh Plan also. The poverty line is updated using the implict CSO private Consumption Deflator as proxy for price rise in the consumption basket of persons near the poverty line. The updated poverty line is Rs. 107 per capita per month in rural areas and Rs. 122 per capita per month in urban areas at 1984-85 prices (base year of the Seventh Plan).

(b) As indicated in reply to Part (a) above the poverty line is updated for the year for which the poverty calculations ore made, considering the price rise upto that year.

Fiscal policies initiated by former Finance Minister

1903. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to an interview which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 1st February, 1987 with former Minister for Finance regarding document on Long Term Fiscal Policy; and

(b) whether it is correct that present fiscal policies and various activities are likely to be reversed as these have retarded industrial growth and violated Industrial Policy Resolution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir. The interview, however, does not relate to the document on Long Term Fiscal Policy.

(b) No, Sir.

Non payment of Customs Duties by The Indian Express Private Ltd., Bombay

1904. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Company Law Department has referred the case relating to detection of some irregularities and non-payment of custom duty by the Indian Express Private Limited, Bombay from 1981 onwards to the Finance Ministry for necessary action;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to collect the amount which the Company has not paid as Custom duty on the newsprint; and

(c) what is the amount of custom duty due to the Indian Express Private Limited, Bombay from 1981 till date on newsprint?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) An extract of a report

of inspection carried out under section 209-A of the Companies Act, 1956 in respect of Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Private Limited has been received on 26.2.1987 by the Central Board of Excise & Customs from the Department of Company Affairs. The report is being examined for appropriate action.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Nationalisation of Peerless General Finance and Investment Company

1905. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:
SHRI TALARI MANOHAR:
SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karamchari Samity of Peerless General Finance and Investment Company have urged for nationalisation of the Company or its merger; and

(b) if so, what is Government response to this proposal keeping in view interest of wide range of customers stock with Peerless?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have no proposal under consideration to nationalise the Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited, Calcutta or to merge it with any other organisation. However, Reserve Bank of India has been asked to initiate such measures as are considered necessary in the light of the Supreme Court judgement to regulate the activities of the Company with a view to protecting the interests of the depositors of the Company.

Supersession of IAS Officers

1906. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in promoting two I.A.S. officers of 1957 batch working as Additional Secretaries in the Prime Minister's Office, about a hundred officers belonging to the earlier batches of I.A.S. and some of the 1957 batch have been superseded; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The post of Secretary to Government of India is a senior post. Not all officers are appointed as Secretary to Government of India. The appointments to senior posts under the Government filled under the senior staffing scheme are normally made from amongst eligible officers belonging to All India and Central Services, keeping in view the job requirements of each post and the qualifications and experience of the officers in the field of choice.

Commercial Banks functioning in Karnataka

1907. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the commercial banks which are functioning in Karnataka at present;

(b) the number of them that are running of profit/loss; and what are the reasons of their loss; and

(c) what steps are being taken to improve the performance of those commercial banks?